

*Citation for published version:*

Bala, SS, Jamieson, HA & Nishtala, PS 2019, 'Determinants of prescribing potentially inappropriate medications in a nationwide cohort of community dwellers with dementia receiving a comprehensive geriatric assessment', *International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*, vol. 34, no. 1, pp. 153-161. <https://doi.org/10.1002/gps.5004>

*DOI:*

[10.1002/gps.5004](https://doi.org/10.1002/gps.5004)

*Publication date:*

2019

*Document Version*

Peer reviewed version

[Link to publication](#)

This is the peer-reviewed version of the following article: Bala, SS, Jamieson, HA & Nishtala, PS 2018, 'Determinants of prescribing potentially inappropriate medications in a nationwide cohort of community dwellers with dementia receiving a comprehensive geriatric assessment' *International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*. which has been published in final form at: <https://dx.doi.org/10.1002/gps.5004>. This article may be used for non-commercial purposes in accordance with Wiley Terms and Conditions for Self-archiving.

**University of Bath**

## **Alternative formats**

If you require this document in an alternative format, please contact:  
[openaccess@bath.ac.uk](mailto:openaccess@bath.ac.uk)

### **General rights**

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

### **Take down policy**

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

**Title: Determinants of prescribing potentially inappropriate medications in a nationwide cohort of community dwellers with dementia receiving a comprehensive geriatric assessment**

**Running title:** Inappropriate prescribing in dementia utilizing the interRAI dataset

**Sharmin S Bala<sup>1\*</sup>, Hamish A Jamieson<sup>2</sup>, Prasad S Nishtala<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand

<sup>2</sup>Department of Medicine, University of Otago, Christchurch, New Zealand

<sup>3</sup>School of Pharmacy, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand

**\*Corresponding author:**

Dr Sharmin S Bala, Department of Preventive and Social Medicine,  
University of Otago, New Zealand.

**Phone:** +64-220893600

**Email:** [sharmin.bala@postgrad.otago.ac.nz](mailto:sharmin.bala@postgrad.otago.ac.nz)

**ORCID:** 0000-0003-1126-8291

**Word Count:** 3,256

**Acknowledgements:** We would like to thank New Zealand's National interRAI services for providing access to the interRAI-HC data.

1   **Abstract:**

2   **Objective:** To identify the prevalence and predictors of prescribing potentially inappropriate  
3   medications (PIMs) in a nationwide cohort of community dwellers with dementia requiring  
4   complex care needs.

5   **Methods:** A cross-matched data of the International Resident Assessment Instrument-Home  
6   Care (9.1) (interRAI-HC) ~~and with~~ prescribing data obtained from the Pharmaceutical Claims  
7   Data Mart (Pharms) extract files for older adults ( $\geq 65$  years) requiring complex care needs was  
8   utilized for this study. The 2015 Beers criteria were applied to identify the prevalence of PIMs  
9   in older adults with dementia. Sociodemographic and clinical predictors of PIMs were analysed  
10   using a logistic regression model.

11   **Results:** The study population consisted of 16,568 individuals who had their first interRAI  
12   assessment from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015. The estimated prevalence of  
13   dementia was 13.2% (2,190/16,568). 66.9% (1,465/2,190) of the older adults diagnosed with  
14   dementia were prescribed PIMs, of which anticholinergic medications constituted 59.6%  
15   (873/1,465). Males and individuals who were prescribed a greater number of medications were  
16   more likely to be prescribed PIMs. Individuals over 85 years of age, Māori ethnic group of  
17   individuals, older adults who were being supervised with respect to their activities of daily  
18   living, and individuals who reported good or excellent self reported health, had a lesser  
19   likelihood of being prescribed PIMs.

20   **Conclusion:** We found that PIMs are prescribed frequently in older adults with dementia.  
21   Comprehensive geriatric assessments can serve as a potential tool to decrease the occurrence  
22   of PIMs in vulnerable groups with poor functional and cognitive status.

23  
24   **Key words:** Dementia, potentially inappropriate medications, interRAI, prescribing in older  
25   adults

26  
27   **Key Points:**

28   The 2015 Beers criteria and interRAI assessments were used to determine the prevalence and  
29   predictors of prescribing potentially inappropriate medications (PIMs) in older adults  
30   diagnosed with dementia, and having complex care needs.

1 There was a high prevalence of PIMs in older adults with dementia. ~~Anticholinergic~~  
2 medications comprised the most commonly prescribed PIMs. Sociodemographic factors  
3 including younger age, male gender, and New Zealand European ethnicity; and clinical factors  
4 like the increased number of medications prescribed, functional status, and self-reported health  
5 influenced the prescription of PIMs in this vulnerable population.

6 A due consideration of these attributes while prescribing may aid in reducing the prescribing  
7 of PIMs in individuals with dementia.

## 10 Introduction:

11 Dementia is one of the principal syndromes linked with disability and dependence among older  
12 adults and is a major challenge to individuals, communities, and societies globally.<sup>1</sup> The global  
13 incidence of dementia is expected to rise to 81 million by 2040, primarily due to the progressive  
14 nature of the disorder, which involves worsening of neurocognitive impairment and loss of  
15 basic functions in daily life.<sup>2-4</sup> In 2016, the estimated prevalence of dementia in New Zealand  
16 (NZ) was more than 62,000, which is predicted to increase to 170,000 in 2050.<sup>5</sup> One in every  
17 four 'international Resident Assessment Instrument- Home Care' (interRAI-HC) evaluated  
18 individuals in 2016-17 in NZ were diagnosed with dementia, of which 35% needed extensive  
19 assistance or were completely dependent, and 30% ~~had showed~~ daily episodes of disturbing  
20 behaviours, like wandering or being abusive.<sup>6</sup> The interRAI was developed by an international  
21 collaboration of experts and shows good inter-rater reliability. The interRAI assessors who  
22 conduct the assessments are trained in a quality assurance programme conducted by the  
23 Ministry of Health, NZ. A national competency framework supports and promotes the quality  
24 assurance programs for the interRAI assessments.<sup>8</sup> The interRAI-HC tool gathers information  
25 on physical, mental, social, and cognitive domains of the health of residents/clients living in  
26 home care settings.<sup>8</sup>

28 Beers et al have defined potentially inappropriate medications (PIMs) as the prescription of  
29 medications, where the risks outweigh clinical benefits, particularly when there is safer or more  
30 effective alternative therapy for the same condition.<sup>9</sup> A study conducted in rural community-  
31 dwelling older adults in the United States of America (USA), utilizing the Beers criteria ~~has~~

1 found that half of the population of older adults utilized over-the-counter and prescribed  
2 inappropriate medications.<sup>10</sup> Prescribing medications for older adults with dementia is  
3 challenging because of the risks associated with cognitive decline, behavioural and  
4 psychological disturbances, prescription of multiple medications, and their associated  
5 costs.<sup>12,13</sup> Older adults with dementia also experience a greater sensitivity to the adverse effects  
6 of medications acting on the central nervous system.<sup>14,15</sup> Long-term utilization of medications  
7 in older individuals with impaired physical and cognitive function has been associated with  
8 increased risks of hospitalization and mortality.<sup>16</sup>

9 The 2015 Beers Criteria is often used as a tool for assessing the appropriateness of prescribing  
10 medications in the geriatric population.<sup>17</sup> A systematic review among older adults with  
11 cognitive impairment and dementia reported a varied prevalence of prescription of PIMs of  
12 10.2%–56.4% across Europe, Australia, and the United States; and the Beers criteria were  
13 applied for assessing PIMs in ~~the~~ majority of ~~the~~ studies.<sup>18</sup> Another recent literature review  
14 reported that among the five studies conducted in ambulatory home-dwelling patients  
15 diagnosed with dementia that used the Beers criteria, the prevalence of PIMs use ranged from  
16 16.2% to 33%, and PIMs were found to be associated with the gender, ethnicity, number of  
17 medications prescribed, and varied medical conditions.<sup>19</sup> An understanding about the  
18 prevalence and determinants of PIMs can help prevent adverse effects, and improve the quality  
19 of prescribing in this vulnerable age-group. To our knowledge, this is the first study conducted  
20 to evaluate the predictors of prescribing PIMs in older adults with dementia receiving  
21 comprehensive geriatric risk assessments. These assessments capture a suite of  
22 sociodemographic and clinical variables that have not been previously investigated. The study  
23 aims to identify the prevalence and associations of prescribing PIMs in a nationwide cohort of  
24 community dwellers with dementia. The overarching objective of the study is to identify the  
25 factors associated with inappropriate prescribing in older adults diagnosed with dementia,  
26 identified by the 2015 version of Beers criteria, by multinomial regression, utilizing the 2015  
27 interRAI dataset.

## 28 29 30 **Materials and Methods:**

31 The Human Ethics Committee, University of Otago, NZ has approved the proceedings of the  
32 study (ethical approval number 15/CEN/45/AM02).

**Data source:** The international Resident Assessment Instrument-Home Care (9.1) (interRAI-HC) dataset is a comprehensive geriatric risk assessment for community-dwelling older adults with complex care needs needing publicly funded long-term community services or aged residential care in NZ.<sup>20</sup> In NZ, a standardized interRAI-HC has been implemented for conducting all community care assessments in older adults requiring publically funded long-term community services or aged residential care.<sup>21</sup> Assessors in District Health Boards throughout NZ utilize this standardised interRAI-HC assessment to assist in defining the level of support required for the geriatric population.<sup>20</sup> Older adults are referred by a health practitioner to have their health requirements assessed by the trained interRAI-HC assessors. Assessors visit the individuals at their residence to develop individualized treatment plans according to a standardized protocol.<sup>22</sup> Once the participating individuals consent to the de-identified interRAI-HC data being used for planning and research purposes, the information is then collated into the electronic interRAI-HC database, maintained by New Zealand's Technical Advisory Services (TAS) to provide facts and figures at the provider, regional and national level.<sup>22</sup> The interRAI-HC assessments provide information on 20 domains, including social demographics, medical ailments, frailty, cognitive and physical function.<sup>21</sup> The interRAI database is linked to various NZ Ministry of Health nationwide collections, including prescription use (the Pharms database), hospital discharges (National Minimum Dataset), laboratory collections and mortality data, among others.<sup>21</sup> The information on all the prescription claims funded by PHARMAC (Pharmaceutical management agency) was sourced from the Pharmaceutical Claims Data Mart (Pharms) extract files 2015, prepared by community pharmacists, and includes the sociodemographics and medication details of the individuals.<sup>24</sup> The cross-matched 2015 interRAI-Pharms dataset was utilized for the present study.

**Study population:** The eligible study population comprised community dwellers ( $\geq 65$  years of age) in NZ who have undergone the first interRAI comprehensive geriatric risk assessment in 2015. The present study had a retrospective design, tracking the prevalence of PIMs and dementia, and delineating the factors associated with prescription of PIMs in dementia in older individuals. The personal information of the individuals is de-identified in the dataset.

**PIMs exposure:** PIMs were defined according to the list of medications to be avoided in individuals diagnosed with dementia as per the 2015 Beers criteria<sup>25</sup> developed by the American Geriatrics Society; which comprised the prescription of psychotropics, including

antipsychotics, medications with anticholinergic properties, benzodiazepines, nonbenzodiazepines, benzodiazepine receptor agonist hypnotics, and H<sub>2</sub> receptor antagonists (**Table 1**). We have excluded medications listed under the 2015 Beers criteria which were not available or not subsidized in NZ (**Appendix 1**).

**Diagnosis of dementia:** Dementia was diagnosed by the Minimum Data Set (MDS) Cognitive Performance Scale (CPS).<sup>26</sup> The CPS is a valid and reliable seven-point hierarchical scale derived from the MDS that rates impairment from intact memory to very severe memory loss.<sup>27</sup> The CPS collates data on comatose status, short-term memory, cognitive skills for daily decision-making, being understood by others, and self-performance in eating, with scores ranging from 0 (intact memory) to 6 (very severe memory impairment). The CPS has been shown to be highly correlated with the Mini-Mental State Examination in a number of validation studies.

**Covariates:** The individuals were grouped according to age: 65-74 years, 75-84 years, 85-94 years, and 95 years and above. Based on the literature review of known predictors of inappropriate prescribing in older adults with and without dementia, explanatory variables that were tested for their influence on prescribing patterns were:

1. **Sociodemographics:** Age<sup>30</sup>, gender<sup>30</sup> ethnicities<sup>31</sup>, marital status<sup>30</sup>, living arrangements<sup>32,33</sup>, alcohol intake<sup>34</sup>, and smoking history<sup>35</sup>.
2. **Clinical:** Activities of daily living<sup>30,36</sup>, self-reported health<sup>30</sup>, hospitalization<sup>32,36</sup>, and number of medications.<sup>37,38</sup>

**Statistical analysis:** The potential impact of different explanatory variables on the outcome variable (PIMs) was analysed using logistic regression models.

Individuals with a diagnosis of dementia were flagged as a binary variable; those with the diseased condition were coded as 1, the coding for no dementia was 0. Descriptive analysis was conducted utilizing the IBM SPSS version 24. Logistic regression analysis was performed using StataCorp® Release 14.2. We utilized the ‘STrengthening the Reporting of Observational studies in Epidemiology’ (STROBE) guidelines ([www.strobe-statement.org](http://www.strobe-statement.org)) as the research reporting guiding principle<sup>39</sup> (**Appendix 2**)

## 1   **Results:**

2   The current analysis is based on data collected from 16,568 Home-Care assessments from 1<sup>st</sup>  
3   January 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015, who have received at least one prescription medication  
4   funded by PHARMAC. Our observations suggest that the female population comprised 60.1%  
5   (9,964). The mean (SD) age of the population was 82.35 (7.6) years. Individuals of all  
6   ethnicities were included in the study. NZ Europeans and Māori were studied particularly, as  
7   they represent the largest ethnicities in NZ.<sup>31</sup> 13.2% (2,190) of the study population was  
8   diagnosed with dementia. Dementia was marginally more prevalent in males (14.6%)  
9   compared to females ( $p=0.001$ ), and among the Māori ethnicity (16.6%). The  
10   sociodemographic characteristics of the study population are depicted in **Table 2**, which also  
11   displays the associations of PIMs with the corresponding 95% confidence interval (CI)  
12   ( $p<0.05$ ), after adjustment for confounders, in individuals diagnosed with dementia. Overall,  
13   we observed that 66.9% (1,465/2,190) of the older adults diagnosed with dementia were  
14   prescribed PIMs, of which 59.6% (873/1,465) constituted anticholinergic inappropriate  
15   medications. Overall, 39.9% (873/2,190) of the individuals diagnosed with dementia were  
16   prescribed anticholinergic PIMs (**Figure 1**).

17   **Sociodemographic predictors:** Individuals over 85 years of age were less likely to be  
18   prescribed PIMs, compared to individuals aged 65-74 years ( $aOR=0.64$ ,  $CI=0.53$ ,  $0.77$  for  
19   individuals aged 85-94 years,  $aOR=0.53$ ,  $CI=0.38$ ,  $0.73$  for individuals over 95 years). Males  
20   were more likely to be prescribed PIMs ( $aOR=1.24$ ,  $CI=1.09$ ,  $1.41$ ) compared to females. The  
21   Māori ethnic group ( $aOR=0.59$ ,  $CI=0.47$ ,  $0.76$ ) and the other ethnicity groups ( $aOR=0.68$ ,  
22    $CI=0.54$ ,  $0.87$ ) were less likely to be prescribed PIMs, compared to the NZ Europeans.

## 23   **Clinical factors associated with PIMs**

24   Older adults who were prescribed a greater number of medications were more likely to be  
25   prescribed PIMs ( $aOR=1.15$ ,  $CI=1.14$ ,  $1.16$ ), compared to those prescribed a single medication.  
26   With respect to the activities of daily living, the older adults who were being supervised  
27   ( $aOR=0.83$ ,  $CI=0.69$ ,  $0.99$ ) were less likely to be prescribed PIMs, compared to individuals  
28   who were independent in their self-performance and capacity. Older adults who reported  
29   excellent ( $aOR=0.62$ ,  $CI=0.43$ ,  $0.89$ ) and good self-health ( $aOR=0.65$ ,  $CI=0.49$ ,  $0.85$ ) had a  
30   lesser likelihood to be prescribed PIMs, compared to those who reported poor self-health.

31

32



## Discussion:

We reported the prevalence [of prescription of PIMS](#) and identified the sociodemographic and clinical variables associated with the prescription of PIMs among community-dwelling older adults with dementia.

Several studies investigating PIMs in older individuals have been carried out in NZ that made use of the Beers criteria, and have focused on community-dwelling or hospitalized older adults.<sup>31,35,40</sup> This study appears to be the first to apply the 2015 Beers criteria to examine the associations of inappropriate prescribing exclusively in community-dwelling older individuals with dementia in NZ, who have received a comprehensive geriatric risk assessment.

The NZ interRAI annual report 2016-17<sup>6</sup> noted a 1.2 times higher prevalence of dementia in males, compared to females, findings consistent with those in our study. Likewise, in the present study, male individuals diagnosed with dementia were more prone to be prescribed PIMs, compared to females, similar to the findings of a recent study in Finland<sup>41</sup> which reported the male gender as a risk factor for initiation of PIMs in community-dwelling older adults with Alzheimer's disease; and the research conducted in Korea which analysed the trends in prescribing of atypical antipsychotics in geriatric patients with dementia.<sup>42</sup> Numerous studies have reported a higher rate of inappropriate medication use in older women than in men of the same age-group<sup>43-45</sup>, although the clinical relevance of this association remains uncertain.<sup>46</sup>

Our study observed a high prevalence of dementia in the Māori group, comparable to that observed in a study conducted in NZ to assess an indigenous approach for the diagnosis and management of dementia<sup>47</sup>, and to the findings of the NZ interRAI annual report 2016-17.<sup>6</sup> It has been observed that the Māori population over the age of 50 have worse health outcomes and a greater burden of chronic ailments than non-Māori of the same age-group.<sup>48</sup> The prevalence of PIMs (68.4%) in NZ Europeans with dementia exceeded the occurrence in all other ethnic groups of individuals, identical to other PIMs prevalence studies in the geriatric age group conducted in NZ.<sup>31,40</sup> This could be attributed to NZ Europeans being the predominant ethnic group in New Zealand, comprising 71.2% of the country's inhabitants.<sup>49</sup>

A higher proportion (72.3%) of relatively younger group (65-75 years) of individuals with dementia were prescribed PIMs, which reflects the findings of the study performed by Hyttinen et al to evaluate PIMs prevalence in community-dwelling older adults with and without

1 Alzheimer's Disease<sup>41</sup>. These findings could potentially be attributed to prescriber awareness  
2 concerning the prescription of PIMs in individuals of the older age group.<sup>50</sup>

3  
4 There was a high prevalence of PIMs (66.9%) in older adults diagnosed with dementia in our  
5 study, comparable to the prevalence (62%) in a study conducted in community-dwelling older  
6 adults in the USA.<sup>51</sup> This is a significant finding of our study. Similarly, researchers in  
7 Australia<sup>52</sup> reported a prescription of at least one PIM as 56.4% among individuals with  
8 dementia living in residential aged care facilities. A study of six residential care homes in  
9 England<sup>46</sup> observed the prevalence of at least 1 PIM prescribed in 46.2% and 40.9% of the  
10 older individuals with dementia, utilizing the STOPP criteria, reviewed at two time-points, 16  
11 weeks apart. A direct international comparison of the prevalence of PIM prescriptions with our  
12 findings is challenging because of the differences between the PIMs lists used, and the  
13 population under study. Holmes et al have developed a tool for assessment of appropriate  
14 medication prescribing in advanced dementia, in which the primary goal is palliation of  
15 symptoms.<sup>53</sup> There is a similar need to arrive at a global consensus through research on  
16 appropriate prescribing in older adults presenting with different stages of dementia.

17  
18 One of the most significant findings of our research suggest that 59.6% of the PIMs prescribed  
19 belonged to the anticholinergic class of medications; and 39.9% of the population under study  
20 were prescribed anticholinergic medications which were termed inappropriate to prescribe in  
21 older individuals diagnosed with dementia, according to the 2015 Beers criteria.<sup>25</sup> Bhattacharya  
22 et al<sup>54</sup> reported a prevalence of 43% of anticholinergic medication prescription among elderly  
23 outpatients with dementia. A study by Somers et al<sup>55</sup> reported a high anticholinergic burden of  
24 PIMs in residential aged care facilities in Melbourne. A study by Cross et al<sup>56</sup> in Australia also  
25 reported a clinically significant anticholinergic burden in older adults attending Memory  
26 Clinics. Anticholinergic agents are specifically associated with negative outcomes in older  
27 adults diagnosed with dementia, such as risk of falls, delirium, worsening of cognitive function,  
28 and increased mortality.<sup>54,57</sup> The anticholinergic agents are notorious for their peripheral side  
29 effects, which include dry mouth, constipation, urinary retention, and bowel obstruction; and  
30 the central side effects such as impaired concentration, confusion, attention deficit, and  
31 impairment of memory.<sup>54</sup> PIMs with anticholinergic properties may also inhibit the potential  
32 benefits of cholinesterase inhibitors, which is the main pharmacological class, currently  
33 approved for the management of Alzheimer's disease.<sup>58</sup> Several researchers have attested that

1 anticholinergics may be associated with an increased risk for the development of sustained  
2 cognitive deficits, which can range from mild cognitive impairment to dementia.<sup>59-61</sup>

3  
4 The results of the logistic regression analysis showed that the likelihood of PIMs increased  
5 with the number of medications prescribed, which is akin to the findings of the research in  
6 older people with dementia in care homes in the United Kingdom (UK),<sup>46</sup> the study by  
7 Wucherer et al in community-dwelling primary care patients screened positive for dementia,<sup>62</sup>  
8 and the research conducted in Sweden using the EU(7)-PIM list to evaluate the prevalence of  
9 PIMs in older people with cognitive impairment.<sup>57</sup> A study performed in UK utilizing the  
10 primary care database of anonymised electronic health records from general practice  
11 witnessed that patients over 65 years of age diagnosed with dementia, and taking multiple  
12 medications, were more likely to be prescribed antipsychotics.<sup>63</sup> A higher number of  
13 medications being prescribed may indicate multiple comorbidities. Drug interactions and non-  
14 adherence are other risk factors that may have adverse consequences among older adults with  
15 dementia, which are linked to a high number of prescribed medications.<sup>57</sup>

16  
17 In our study, individuals who reported poor self-health had an increased likelihood of  
18 developing PIMs, identical to the results of a study conducted in the USA to assess potentially  
19 inappropriate anticholinergic medication use in home-dwelling older adults with dementia.<sup>50</sup>  
20 The Bronx Aging Study<sup>64</sup> revealed that patients with poor or fair ratings of self-perceived  
21 health utilized more prescription medications. Scores on self-perceived health status may be an  
22 appropriate measure of the syndrome. This is supported by the conclusion that subjects  
23 reporting fair and poor ratings on self-perceived health have increased numbers of physician  
24 visits.<sup>64</sup>

25 Contrary to the analysis of studies conducted in individuals diagnosed with dementia in  
26 Sweden<sup>65</sup> and in eight European countries<sup>66</sup>, a striking result to emerge from our data is that  
27 the PIMs prevalence was higher in individuals who were functionally independent with respect  
28 to ADL.

29  
30 The study found increased use of anticholinergic medicines in dementia. Several studies have  
31 shown that prescription of anticholinergic medicines can adversely impact cognition, physical  
32 function, and can also increase the risk of mortality. Future research will aim at utilizing the  
33 interRAI assessments for reducing anticholinergic medicines, and whether this leads to

improved cognitive outcomes. Further research will be undertaken to develop safer alternatives to anticholinergic medications in this vulnerable group.

**Strength of the study:** The strength of this study includes the use of a national comprehensive geriatric assessment, interRAI tool to record social attributes, clinical diagnosis and medication use information in a substantial number of subjects, and the inclusion of the geriatric population with dementia. Selection bias is mitigated by the wide prescription coverage in this population. Standardized interRAI HC assessments conducted by trained healthcare personnel facilitates the provision of valid clinical, social and functional data for research purposes. Various predictors incorporated in the multivariate regression model, such as living arrangements, activities of daily living, self-reported health are seldom seen in studies using administrative claims data; hence, this study provides a unique perspective to the determinants of prescription of PIMs in older adults with dementia. An additional strength is the application of the updated 2015 Beers criteria.

**Limitations:** The prevalence and associations of PIMs with respect to the individual psychotropic medications were not studied. It was not possible to delineate the subtypes of dementia. The retrospective analysis may not have been as competent as a prospective research in outlining the findings of the study. The geriatric risk assessments are conducted in older individuals living in the community specifically requiring complex care needs, which is different from surveyed populations of older adults living in the community. Hence, the findings of this study might not be applicable to community-dwelling older adults in various countries because of variances in the population, health systems, prescribing guidelines, and the cost of medications, as all these factors influence prescribing patterns; however, country-specific guidelines can be developed using this information. The study design is cross-sectional, hence only the associations of prescribing PIMs have been highlighted, and the causality cannot be established.

**Conclusion:** In the present study, we observed that the majority of the individuals diagnosed with dementia were prescribed PIMs, indicating that the quality of prescribing needs to be improved.<sup>37</sup> Furthermore, important sociodemographic predictors like male gender, European ethnicity, relatively younger aged individuals, and clinical predictors like the prescription of anticholinergic medications, a higher number of medications prescribed, poor self-health, and

functionally independent individuals were identified as risk factors for prescribing PIMs in older adults diagnosed with dementia. Reviewing the modifiable predictors of prescribing PIMs could significantly reduce the prevalence of inappropriate prescribing in this vulnerable population.

**Statement of contributions of authors:** Dr Prasad Nishtala designed the study; Dr Sharmin Bala performed the research, Dr Sharmin Bala analysed the data; Dr Prasad Nishtala and Dr Hamish Jamieson contributed new methods and models; Dr Sharmin Bala wrote the paper. All authors contributed to data interpretation, critically commented on manuscript for intellectual content, and approved the final manuscript.

**Statement of human rights Ethical approval:** All procedures performed in studies involving human participants were in accordance with the ethical standards of the institutional and/or national research committee and with the 1964 Helsinki declaration and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards.

**Disclosure of potential conflicts of interest:** The authors declare no conflict of interest.

**Research involving Human Participants:** For this type of study formal consent is not required, since complete anonymity is maintained.

**Funding:** No funding provided.

## References:

1. Hendrie HC. Epidemiology of Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease. *The American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*. 1998;6(2, Supplement 1):S3-S18.
2. Grand JHG, Caspar S, MacDonald SWS. Clinical features and multidisciplinary approaches to dementia care. *Journal of Multidisciplinary Healthcare*. 2011;4:125-147.
3. Organization WH. Consultation on the development of the global dementia observatory, World Health Organization, Geneva, 5-6 July 2016: meeting report. 2017.
4. Ferri CP, Prince M, Brayne C, et al. Global prevalence of dementia: a Delphi consensus study. *The Lancet*. 2005;366(9503):2112-2117.
5. Fekete M, Szabo A, Stephens C, Alpass F. Older New Zealanders in caregiving roles: Psychological functioning of caregivers of people living with dementia. *Dementia*.0(0):1471301217725897.

6. *interRAi Annual report*. New Zealand.
7. Hirdes JP, Ljunggren G, Morris JN, et al. Reliability of the interRAI suite of assessment instruments: a 12-country study of an integrated health information system. *BMC health services research*. 2008;8:277.
8. Salahudeen MS, Nishtala PS. A systematic review evaluating the use of the interRAI home care instrument in research for older people. *Clinical gerontologist*. 2018:1-22.
9. Beers MH. Explicit criteria for determining potentially inappropriate medication use by the elderly: an update. *Archives of internal medicine*. 1997;157.
10. Tommelein E, Mehuys E, Petrovic M, Somers A, Colin P, Boussery K. Potentially inappropriate prescribing in community-dwelling older people across Europe: a systematic literature review. *European Journal of Clinical Pharmacology*. 2015;71(12):1415-1427.
11. Opondo D, Eslami S, Visscher S, et al. Inappropriateness of medication prescriptions to elderly patients in the primary care setting: a systematic review. *PloS one*. 2012;7(8):e43617.
12. Kolanowski A, Fick D, Waller JL, Ahern F. Outcomes of Antipsychotic Drug Use in Community-Dwelling Elders With Dementia. *Archives of Psychiatric Nursing*. 20(5):217-225.
13. Ramsey CM, Gnjjidic D, Agogo GO, Allore H, Moga D. Longitudinal patterns of potentially inappropriate medication use following incident dementia diagnosis. *Alzheimer's & Dementia: Translational Research & Clinical Interventions*. 2018;4:1-10.
14. Shi S, Morike K, Klotz U. The clinical implications of ageing for rational drug therapy. *Eur J Clin Pharmacol*. 2008;64(2):183-199.
15. Bell JS, Mezrani C, Blacker N, et al. Anticholinergic and sedative medicines - prescribing considerations for people with dementia. *Australian family physician*. 2012;41(1-2):45-49.
16. Goodwin JS, Howrey B, Zhang DD, Kuo Y-F. Risk of Continued Institutionalization After Hospitalization in Older Adults. *The Journals of Gerontology Series A: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences*. 2011;66A(12):1321-1327.
17. Workgroup AGSCW. American Geriatrics Society identifies five things that healthcare providers and patients should question. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*. 2013;61(4):622-631.
18. Kristina J. Inappropriate Drug Use in People with Cognitive Impairment and Dementia: A Systematic Review. *Current Clinical Pharmacology*. 2015;10(3):178-184.
19. Patel T, Slonim K, Lee L. Use of potentially inappropriate medications among ambulatory home-dwelling elderly patients with dementia: A review of the literature. *Canadian Pharmacists Journal : CPJ*. 2017;150(3):169-183.
20. Nishtala PS, Jamieson HA. New Zealand's interRAI: A Resource For Examining Health Outcomes in Geriatric Pharmacoepidemiology. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*. 2017;65(4):876-877.
21. Schluter PJ, Ahuriri-Driscoll A, Anderson TJ, et al. Comprehensive clinical assessment of home-based older persons within New Zealand: an epidemiological profile of a national cross-section. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*. 2016;40(4):349-355.
22. Schluter PJ, Lacey C, Porter RJ, Jamieson HA. An epidemiological profile of bipolar disorder among older adults with complex needs: A national cross-sectional study. *Bipolar Disorders*. 2017;19(5):375-385.

23. Carpenter GL. Accuracy, validity and reliability in assessment and in evaluation of services for older people: the role of the interRAI MDS assessment system. *Age and Ageing*. 2006;35(4):327-329.
24. Pharmaceutical Claims Data Mart data dictionary. <http://www.health.govt.nz/publication/pharmaceutical-claims-data-mart-data-dictionary>.
25. American Geriatrics Society Beers Criteria Update Expert P. American Geriatrics Society 2015 Updated Beers Criteria for Potentially Inappropriate Medication Use in Older Adults. *J Am Geriatr Soc*. 2015;63(11):2227-2246.
26. Morris JN, Fries BE, Mehr DR, et al. MDS Cognitive Performance Scale. *Journal of gerontology*. 1994;49(4):M174-182.
27. Jennifer T, Marisa D, L. GJ. Advance Directives among Nursing Home Residents with Mild, Moderate, and Advanced Dementia. *Journal of Palliative Medicine*. 2018;21(1):16-21.
28. Paquay L, Lepeleire JD, Schoenmakers B, Ylief M, Fontaine O, Buntinx F. Comparison of the diagnostic accuracy of the Cognitive Performance Scale (Minimum Data Set) and the Mini-Mental State Exam for the detection of cognitive impairment in nursing home residents. *International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*. 2007;22(4):286-293.
29. Scales: Status and Outcome Measures. *interRAI* <http://www.interrai.org/scales.html>. Accessed 8.8.2018.
30. Miller GE, Sarpong EM, Davidoff AJ, Yang EY, Brandt NJ, Fick DM. Determinants of Potentially Inappropriate Medication Use among Community-Dwelling Older Adults. *Health services research*. 2017;52(4):1534-1549.
31. Narayan SW, Nishtala PS. Prevalence of potentially inappropriate medicine use in older New Zealanders: a population-level study using the updated 2012 Beers criteria. *Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice*. 2015;21(4):633-641.
32. Tordoff JM, Bagge ML, Gray AR, Campbell AJ, Norris PT. Medicine-taking practices in community-dwelling people aged  $\geq 75$  years in New Zealand. *Age and Ageing*. 2010;39(5):574-580.
33. Fialová D, Onder G. Medication errors in elderly people: contributing factors and future perspectives. *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology*. 2009;67(6):641-645.
34. Zeenny R, Wakim S, Kuyumjian Y-M. Potentially inappropriate medications use in community-based aged patients: a cross-sectional study using 2012 Beers criteria. *Clinical Interventions in Aging*. 2017;12:65-73.
35. Narayan SW, Nishtala PS. Associations of Potentially Inappropriate Medicine Use with Fall-Related Hospitalisations and Primary Care Visits in Older New Zealanders: A Population-Level Study Using the Updated 2012 Beers Criteria. *Drugs - Real World Outcomes*. 2015;2(2):137-141.
36. Cool C, Cestac P, Laborde C, et al. Potentially Inappropriate Drug Prescribing and Associated Factors in Nursing Homes. *Journal of the American Medical Directors Association*. 2014;15(11):850.e851-850.e859.
37. Oesterhus R, Aarsland D, Soennesyn H, Rongve A, Selbaek G, Kjosavik SR. Potentially inappropriate medications and drug-drug interactions in home-dwelling people with mild dementia. *International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*. 2017;32(2):183-192.
38. Masumoto S, Sato M, Maeno T, Ichinohe Y, Maeno T. Association between potentially inappropriate medications and anxiety in Japanese older patients. *Geriatrics & Gerontology International*. n/a-n/a.

39. von Elm E AD, Egger M, Pocock SJ, Gøtzsche PC, Vandenbroucke JP. The Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (STROBE)statement: guidelines for reporting observational studies. . *J Clin Epidemiol*. 2008;61(4):344-349.
40. Sharmin Bala, Sujita Narayan, Nishtala P. Potentially inappropriate medications in community-dwelling older adults undertaken as a comprehensive geriatric risk assessment *European Journal of Clinical Pharmacology*. 2018.
41. Hyttinen V, Taipale H, Tanskanen A, et al. Risk Factors for Initiation of Potentially Inappropriate Medications in Community-Dwelling Older Adults with and without Alzheimer's Disease. *Drugs & Aging*. 2017;34(1):67-77.
42. Seo N, Song I, Park H, Ha D, Shin JY. Trends in the prescribing of atypical antipsychotics in elderly patients with dementia in Korea. *International journal of clinical pharmacology and therapeutics*. 2017;55(7):581-587.
43. Aparasu RR, Mort JR. Inappropriate prescribing for the elderly: beers criteria-based review. *The Annals of pharmacotherapy*. 2000;34.
44. Goulding MR. Inappropriate medication prescribing for elderly ambulatory care patients. *Archives of internal medicine*. 2004;164(3):305-312.
45. Bierman AS, Pugh MJ, Dhalla I, et al. Sex differences in inappropriate prescribing among elderly veterans. *Am J Geriatr Pharmacother*. 2007;5(2):147-161.
46. Parsons C, Johnston S, Mathie E, et al. Potentially Inappropriate Prescribing in Older People with Dementia in Care Homes. *Drugs & Aging*. 2012;29(2):143-155.
47. Dudley MD, Menzies O, Barker-Collo S, Cheung G, Elder H, Kerse N. A NEW ZEALAND INDIGENOUS APPROACH TO THE DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT OF DEMENTIA. *Alzheimer's & Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association*.13(7):P1205-P1206.
48. Supporting Older Māori & Pacific Peoples in the Central Region *Central Region District Health Boards* 2012; <https://tas.health.nz/assets/Health-of-Older-People/Supporting-Older-Maori-and-Pacific-Peoples-Report-FINAL-9-11-2012.pdf>.
49. New Zealand Demographics Profile 2018. 2018; [https://www.indexmundi.com/new\\_zealand/demographics\\_profile.html](https://www.indexmundi.com/new_zealand/demographics_profile.html). Accessed 12.03.2018.
50. Kachru N, Carnahan RM, Johnson ML, Aparasu RR. Potentially inappropriate anticholinergic medication use in older adults with dementia. *Journal of the American Pharmacists Association : JAPhA*. 2015;55(6):603-612.
51. Fick D, Kolanowski A, Waller J. High prevalence of central nervous system medications in community-dwelling older adults with dementia over a three-year period. *Aging & Mental Health*. 2007;11(5):588-595.
52. Bosboom PR, Alfonso H, Almeida OP, Beer C. Use of Potentially Harmful Medications and Health-Related Quality of Life among People with Dementia Living in Residential Aged Care Facilities. *Dementia and Geriatric Cognitive Disorders Extra*. 2012;2(1):361-371.
53. Holmes HM, Sachs GA, Shega JW, Hougham GW, Hayley DC, Dale W. Integrating Palliative Medicine into the Care of Persons with Advanced Dementia: Identifying Appropriate Medication Use. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*. 2008;56(7):1306-1311.
54. Bhattacharya R, Chatterjee S, Carnahan RM, Aparasu RR. Prevalence and predictors of anticholinergic agents in elderly outpatients with dementia. *The American journal of geriatric pharmacotherapy*. 2011;9(6):434-441.
55. Somers M, Rose E, Simmonds D, Whitelaw C, Calver J, Beer C. Quality use of medicines in residential aged care. *Australian family physician*. 2010;39(6):413.



56. Cross AJ, George J, Woodward MC, et al. Potentially Inappropriate Medications and Anticholinergic Burden in Older People Attending Memory Clinics in Australia. *Drugs & Aging*. 2016;33(1):37-44.
57. Sonnerstam E, Sjolander M, Gustafsson M. An evaluation of the prevalence of potentially inappropriate medications in older people with cognitive impairment living in Northern Sweden using the EU(7)-PIM list. *Eur J Clin Pharmacol*. 2017;73(6):735-742.
58. Sink KM, Thomas J, 3rd, Xu H, Craig B, Kritchevsky S, Sands LP. Dual use of bladder anticholinergics and cholinesterase inhibitors: long-term functional and cognitive outcomes. *J Am Geriatr Soc*. 2008;56(5):847-853.
59. Gray SL, Anderson ML, Dublin S, et al. Cumulative use of strong anticholinergics and incident dementia: A prospective cohort study. *JAMA Internal Medicine*. 2015;175(3):401-407.
60. Jessen F, Kaduszkiewicz H, Daerr M, et al. Anticholinergic drug use and risk for dementia: target for dementia prevention. *European archives of psychiatry and clinical neuroscience*. 2010;260 Suppl 2:S111-115.
61. Carrière I, Fourrier-Reglat A, Dartigues J, et al. Drugs with anticholinergic properties, cognitive decline, and dementia in an elderly general population: The 3-city study. *Archives of internal medicine*. 2009;169(14):1317-1324.
62. Wucherer D, Eichler T, Hertel J, et al. Potentially inappropriate medication in community-dwelling primary care patients who were screened positive for dementia. *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease*. 2017;55(2):691-701.
63. Stocks SJ, Kontopantelis E, Webb RT, Avery AJ, Burns A, Ashcroft DM. Antipsychotic Prescribing to Patients Diagnosed with Dementia Without a Diagnosis of Psychosis in the Context of National Guidance and Drug Safety Warnings: Longitudinal Study in UK General Practice. *Drug Safety*. 2017;40(8):679-692.
64. Hershman DL, Simonoff PA, Frishman WH, Paston F, Aronson MK. Drug Utilization in the Old Old and How it Relates to Self-Perceived Health and All-Cause Mortality: Results from the Bronx Aging Study. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*. 1995;43(4):356-360.
65. Sköldunger A, Fastbom J, Wimo A, Fratiglioni L, Johnell K. Impact of Inappropriate Drug Use on Hospitalizations, Mortality, and Costs in Older Persons and Persons with Dementia: Findings from the SNAC Study. *Drugs & Aging*. 2015;32(8):671-678.
66. Renom-Guiteras A, Thürmann PA, Miralles R, et al. Potentially inappropriate medication among people with dementia in eight European countries. *Age and Ageing*. 2018;47(1):68-74.

1 **Table 1: List of medications to be avoided in individuals diagnosed with dementia**

2

Anticholinergics		Antipsychotics	H <sub>2</sub> -receptor antagonists	Benzodiazapines
Chlorpheniramine	Homatropine <sup>†</sup> (excludes ophthalmic)	Haloperidol	Cimetidine	Alprazolam
Orphenadrine		Trifluoperazine	Ranitidine	Lorazepam
Diphenhydramine (oral)	Propantheline	Fluphenazine	Famotidine	Oxazepam
Benztropine	Chlorpromazine	Chlorpromazine		Temazepam
Amitriptyline	Clozapine	Thioridazine		Triazolam
Clomipramine	Olanzapine	Aripiprazole		Clonazepam
Doxepin (>6 mg)	Thioridazine	Quetiapine		Diazepam
Imipramine	Trifluoperazine	Ziprasidone		Flurazepam
Nortriptyline	Oxybutynin	Clozapine		Meprobamate
Paroxetine	Solifenacin	Olanzapine		
Trimipramine	Tolterodine			
	Disopyramide			
Atropine <sup>†</sup> (excludes ophthalmic)	Prochlorperazine			
Promethazine				

Formatted Table

Formatted: Superscript

Formatted: Pattern: Clear (Background 2)

Formatted: Superscript

<sup>†</sup>=(excludes ophthalmic)

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

	Total		PIMs		
	N	(%)	aOR	95% CI	p-value
<i>Age (years)</i>					
65-74	3,048	(18.4)	1†	1	
75-84	6,776	(40.9)	0.84	(0.69, 1.01)	0.058
85-94	6,192	(37.4)	0.64	(0.53, 0.77)	0.000
95+	552	(3.3)	0.53	(0.38, 0.73)	0.000
<i>Sex ‡</i>					
Female	9,964	(60.1)	1†	1†	
Male	6,603	(39.9)	1.24	(1.09, 1.41)	0.001
<i>Ethnicity</i>					
European	14,639	(88.4)	1†	1†	
Māori	957	(5.8)	0.59	(0.47, 0.76)	0.000
Other	972	(5.9)	0.68	(0.54, 0.87)	0.002
<i>Marital status</i>					
Married	6,607	(39.9)	1†	1†	
Other	9,961	(60.1)	1.01	(0.80, 1.28)	0.916
<i>Alcohol</i>					
No	13,225	(79.8)	1†	1†	
Yes	3,343	(20.2)	1.02	(0.88, 1.19)	0.760
<i>Smoking</i>					
No	15,653	(94.5)	1†	1†	
Yes	915	(5.5)	0.85	(0.66, 1.09)	0.209
<i>Living arrangements</i>					
Alone	8,019	(48.4)	1†	1†	
Spouse only	5,447	(32.9)	1.14	(0.88, 1.50)	0.327
Other	1,292	(7.8)	0.79	(0.63, 0.99)	0.050
With child §	1,810	(10.9)	0.86	(0.71, 1.03)	0.119
<i>Activities of daily living ¶</i>					
Independent	9,985	(60.3)	1†	1†	
Supervision	2,143	(12.9)	0.83	(0.69, 0.99)	0.035
Limited	1,782	(10.8)	0.94	(0.76, 1.18)	0.642
Extensive	1,046	(6.3)	0.77	(0.60, 1.00)	0.053
Maximal	730	(4.4)	0.74	(0.53, 1.02)	0.066
Dependent+	880	(5.3)	0.84	(0.60, 1.16)	0.288
<i>Self-reported health</i>					
Poor	1925	(11.6)	1†	1†	
Excellent	522	(3.2)	0.62	(0.43, 0.89)	0.010
Good	6,806	(41.1)	0.65	(0.49, 0.85)	0.002
Fair	5,695	(34.4)	0.80	(0.60, 1.06)	0.124
Couldn't respond	1,620	(9.8)	0.82	(0.59, 1.13)	0.229
<i>Hospitalisation</i>					
No hospitalisation (in last 90 days)	8,602	(51.9)	1†	1†	
Other	7,966	(48.1)	1.11	(0.97, 1.27)	0.129
<i>Dementia</i>					

<b>No</b>	14,378	(86.8)	1†	1†	
<b>Yes</b>	2,190	(13.2)	1.17	(0.99, 1.37)	0.057
<b><i>No of meds</i></b>			1.15	(1.14, 1.16)	0.000

†= Reference value, ‡= 1 missing, §= not spouse / partner, ¶=2 missing.